



CCM 2012 Testimony

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports Senate Bill 218 "*An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries*".

This bill would allow municipalities with (a) a population of 20,000 or less, or, (b) a voting district of 20,000 or less to designate polling places other than those used during a general election - allowing local registrars of voters to achieve a level of savings by consolidating polling places, when appropriate. It is estimated that a savings in excess of \$10,000 could be achieved for a small town.

This concept is supported by municipalities across the state of varying sizes and location, therefore CCM urges the following changes to the bill:

- (1) The population threshold of 20,000 or less would exclude many medium sized towns from taking advantage of this cost saving measure. At a time when all levels of government are seeking ways to reduce costs, while not hampering services to constituents, CCM urges raising the municipal population threshold to populations of 60,000 or less.
- (2) The decision to consolidate polling places can have a large impact on voters and should be carefully considered, therefore CCM urges requiring the approval of the chief elected/executive official of the municipality.

CCM urges the committee to make the changes outlined above and favorably report the bill.



If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 710-9525.